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TWO TROLLEY PETITIONS.

Street Railway Wants to Extend Tracks Through Conway and Silver Streets. Storage Battery Scheme for Power.

The Greenfield & Turners Falls street railway has petitioned for franchises from the terminus of their tracks on Federal street through Silver street to its junction with Conway street, thence through Conway to Main and thence to the present tracks; also from the end of the line on Federal street through Silver, High, and East Main streets to the present tracks. The company is strongly desirous of building the first named extension. The second petition is made in accordance with the request of the town as expressed by the vote town meeting day. The company put in the petition for an extension down Main street instead of through Maple, because they think there would be more business that way. It would seem as if there was greater reason for the construction of the road about Conway and Silver streets, than through High, although the road will have to be built about the latter route sooner or later. There will probably be strong opposition to the construction of the road down East Main street.

Some inquiry of residents of West Main street between Conway street and the railroad bridge indicates that a number of the abutters are inclined to oppose the granting of a location through West Main street to the street railway tracks. The possibility of going down Chapman street has been considered, but it is objected that Chapman street would be too narrow at the southern end. It might be possible, however, to come down Chapman as far as Pleasant and go through that street to Federal. Inquiry of some of the merchants doing business on Main street west of Federal showed that a number were favorable to the idea of having the trolley in the street opposite their places of business.

The company have been investigating for some time the question how their power can be improved. They have given special attention to the feasibility of installing a Gould storage battery. Several of the directors have carefully investigated this equipment and favor installing it. The matter will be considered very soon by the full board of directors, and if the board is satisfied the battery will be put in at once.

The storage battery scheme promises well as a remedy for the shortage of power which has annoyed both the company and the patrons of the road. The Gould battery could be installed for about $10,000. It would be used for supplying the deficiency of the Millers Falls power, the energy of which is partly lost at this end of the line. As things are now when there is anchor ice or low water or special cars are running, there is great difficulty in climbing the hills. The storage battery would furnish power to fill the deficiency when needed. It would not have to be renewed for a long time, as the energy that had given out would be re-supplied from the regular plant as soon as there was a surplus of power, and this surplus could be secured at night if at no other time.

The storage battery would occupy a large room at the Cheapside car barn. It would consist of tanks with leaden cells, with the positive and negative plates and composition to generate electricity somewhat as is seen on a small scale in the battery of a telephone instrument. This battery being so near Greenfield, it is said that cars would always run up Clay hill without any difficulty.

In addition to this, negotiations are on foot with the Electric Light Co. for the taking of power from their new plant at Stillwater. If these negotiations are successful, the Greenfield and Deerfield company might let power from the Greenfield and Turners Falls, and if sufficient this power might be used to run through to Northampton. The company has considered some plans for taking power from water privileges not yet developed, but the preferance is for the plans stated above, and which would put the company in good shape to serve the public.

If the franchise asked about the streets of Greenfield should be granted, it is thought that a time table giving half hour time about the town could be arranged.

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